

**In the Claims:**

1. (Previously Amended) A heat-sensitive stencil sheet, which comprises a laminate of a thermoplastic resin film and a fiber-containing porous substrate, said stencil sheet satisfying  $0.150 \leq T-H$  wherein T means an arithmetic average value ( $\text{g} \cdot \text{cm}/\text{cm}$ ) of absolute values of KES bending torque in lengthwise direction of the stencil sheet at curvatures of  $+2.3$  and  $-2.3$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), H means a bending hysteresis ( $\text{g} \cdot \text{cm}/\text{cm}$ ), and T-H means a residual torque ( $\text{g} \cdot \text{cm}/\text{cm}$ ).

2. (Previously Canceled)

3. (Previously Canceled)

4. (Previously Added) A heat-sensitive stencil sheet according to claim 1, wherein said heat-sensitive stencil sheets has a KES bending rigidity value B per unit length of  $0.02 \text{ gf} \cdot \text{cm}^2/\text{cm}$  or more.

5. (Previously Added) A heat-sensitive stencil sheet according to claim 4, wherein said value B is in a cross-wise direction with respect to said heat-sensitive stencil sheet.

6. (Previously Added) A heat-sensitive stencil sheet according to claim 4, wherein said value B is in the length wise direction of said heat-sensitive stencil sheet.

7. (Previously Added) A heat-sensitive stencil sheet according to claim 1, wherein the tensile strength in the lengthwise direction is  $0.3 \text{ kgf}/\text{cm}$  or more.

8. (Previously Added) A heat-sensitive stencil sheet according to claim 4, wherein the tensile strength in the lengthwise direction is  $0.3 \text{ kgf}/\text{cm}$  or more.

9. (Previously Added) A heat-sensitive stencil sheet according to claim 1, wherein said porous substrate comprises synthetic fibers.

10. (Previously Added) A heat-sensitive stencil sheet according to claim 1, wherein said porous substrate is mainly composed of synthetic fibers.

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11. (New) A heat-sensitive stencil sheet according to claim 1, wherein a release agent is provided on a surface of said thermoplastic film which is not laminated to said substrate.

12. (New) A stencil printing method having reduced incidence of stencil sheets jamming in a stencil printing apparatus that includes a printing drum, and essentially avoiding creasing a heat-sensitive stencil sheet on said printing drum during stencil printing, said method comprising

DI providing a heat-sensitive stencil sheet comprising a laminate of a thermoplastic resin film and a fiber-containing porous substrate, wherein the provided heat-sensitive stencil sheet is selected so as to satisfy  $0.150 \leq T-H$  wherein T means an arithmetic average value ( $\text{g} \cdot \text{cm/cm}$ ) of absolute values of KES bending torque in lengthwise direction of the stencil sheet at curvatures of  $+2.3$  and  $-2.3$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), H means a bending hysteresis ( $\text{g} \cdot \text{cm/cm}$ ), and T-H means a residual torque ( $\text{g} \cdot \text{cm/cm}$ );

feeding said heat-sensitive stencil sheet to said stencil printing apparatus; and  
conducting stencil printing using said apparatus, wherein during stencil printing creasing said heat-sensitive stencil sheet when winding or holding same on said printing drum is at least essentially avoided.

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